

**COVER SHEET
EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING PROGRAM NOTICE OF INTENT
(LOCATION LOI)**

Program Information

Program Name: Communication Disorders

Institution Name: Eastern Washington University

Degree Granting Unit: College of Science, Mathematics, and Technology
(e.g., College of Arts and Sciences)

Degree: B.A. Communication Disorders Level: Bachelor Type: Arts
(e.g., B.S. Chemistry) (e.g., Bachelor) (e.g., Science)

Major: Communication Disorders CIP Code: 51.0204
(e.g., Chemistry)

Minor: _____
(if required for major)

Concentration(s) (if applicable):

Proposed Start Date: September 1, 2006

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: N/A* At Full Enrollment by Year: N/A*: _____
(#FTE) (#FTE)

Proposed New Funding: None (see narrative below) * See narrative below.

Funding Source: ☐ State FTE ☐ Self Support ☐ Other:

Mode of Delivery / Locations

☒ Single Campus Delivery Health Sciences Bldg., Riverpoint Campus, Spokane, WA
(enter location)

☐ Off Site _____
(enter location(s))

☐ Distance Learning _____
(enter formats)

☐ Other

Note: If the program is the first to be offered at a given site or location, the submission must also include the information required for the establishment of a new teaching site as outlined in section B.1 of the Program and Facility Approval Policy and Procedures.

Flexible Scheduling

☐ Evening Classes

☐ Weekend Classes

☐ Other (describe)

Attendance Options

☒ Full-Time

☒ Part-Time

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Substantive Statement of Need

1. Background

The Department of Communication Disorders has both undergraduate and graduate programs. The undergraduate program is physically housed in the Communications Building on the main campus of Eastern Washington University in Cheney. The graduate program is a consortium program with Washington State University's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, and is physically housed in the Health Sciences Building (HSB) on the Riverpoint campus in downtown Spokane. The two graduate programs (EWU's and WSU's) share facilities, faculty, and material resources, however the undergraduate programs are completely separate and are housed on each institution's main campus. The consortium graduate program, referred to as the University Programs in Communication Disorders (UPCD), has existed for approximately 15 years.

2. Rationale/Benefits

The purpose of the proposed move of the undergraduate program to the Riverpoint campus is to consolidate facilities and resources while at the same time providing greater benefits to our students. Not only will moving the undergraduate program to the Riverpoint campus be more convenient for our undergraduate students, but it will also negate the need for duplicate facilities and services (at present, faculty have offices and equipment on both campuses). The following paragraphs provide more detailed information regarding the benefits of the proposed move.

Benefits to Students

Perhaps the greatest benefit to our students is that by consolidating the undergraduate and graduate programs, there would be better cohesion and a greater sense of collegiality between our undergraduate and graduate students. Unifying the two programs would serve to improve the departmental and professional identity among our students. As the situation presently exists, our undergraduate students feel isolated from their more advanced (graduate) colleagues. Because of the physical division between the two programs, there is a disconnect between what our undergraduate students are being taught in their courses and what is actually being practiced through clinical experiences (since the clinic is housed at the HSB). One of the primary concerns expressed by our undergraduate students is that the physical divide between the two programs results in a disproportionate emphasis on graduate education to the detriment of their own preparation. Because faculty members are required to spend an excessive amount of time traveling between the two facilities, most faculty members prefer to have their primary office at the Riverpoint campus because of the added clinical and research responsibilities at the graduate level. Laboratory facilities, clinic facilities, and equipment are also housed at the HSB. To be able to take advantage of clinical and laboratory learning opportunities, undergraduate students must travel to Spokane. Scheduling then becomes an issue because of their classroom responsibilities in Cheney. Consolidating the undergraduate and graduate programs at the HSB would enhance learning opportunities for our undergraduate students by allowing us to integrate the complete learning experience. Similarly, the presence of undergraduate students at the HSB would enhance the learning environment for our graduate students. The symbiotic relationship that typically exists between undergraduate and graduate students would serve to enhance the educational experience for all of our students. For example, undergraduate and graduate students alike would be able to participate in our student professional group, the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Because of the current separation between the two programs, NSSLHA is exclusively an undergraduate venture.

As mentioned above briefly, in order to meet their undergraduate and graduate teaching duties, faculty must spend a considerable amount of time traveling between Cheney and Spokane. The time that faculty spend traveling could be better utilized by providing direct instruction for both undergraduate and graduate students. The savings in time normally spent in commuting between campuses would provide faculty with more opportunities to engage in advisement, clinical, and research activities with students.

Moving the undergraduate program to the HSB would also improve our support services to all of our students. Consolidation of our undergraduate and graduate programs would mean that equipment, academic and clinical records, and teaching materials could all be housed within the same facility and thereby be more accessible to students and faculty alike. Graduate students would have better access to the departmental office which is currently housed in Cheney but would be housed at the HSB should a move take place.

Finally, by consolidating the undergraduate and graduate programs within the same facility, there would be no need for the duplication of resources at two campuses. The current situation is that each faculty member has an office, computer, and phone at each of the two campuses. Moving our undergraduate program to the HSB would result in a more streamlined usage of resources. This in turn would indirectly result in improved services to students.

Benefits to the Spokane Community

With the present separation of our undergraduate and graduate programs, the general community is confused as to nature of our discipline. A large segment of the population isn't even aware that an undergraduate communication disorders program exists in this geographic region. The consolidation of our undergraduate and graduate programs may enhance our exposure and standing within the greater Spokane area. More people in the community with speech, language, and/or hearing problems may become aware of the services we provide. This means that many people who have been underserved may finally receive the services they need.

Similarly, by moving our undergraduate program to the Riverpoint campus, the greater Spokane community will have greater access to our curriculum. More widespread exposure within the greater community may result in more high school graduates choosing communication disorders as a career path. For working individuals in the Spokane metropolitan area who desire a change of career path, consolidation of our undergraduate and graduate programs at the HSB may provide a better opportunity for these individuals to pursue communication disorders as a second career. The central location of the HSB within the greater Spokane metropolitan area (by comparison to the undergraduate program's current location in Cheney) may facilitate a career change for these individuals.

Opportunities for Collaboration

Consolidation of our undergraduate and graduate programs at the HSB will result in greater opportunities for collaboration among our program and the Speech and Hearing Sciences program at Washington State University. With our graduate program being a collaboration with the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Washington State University, members of the WSU Speech and Hearing Sciences faculty are provided many opportunities to engage in academic, clinical, and research activities with our graduate students. By moving our undergraduate program to the HSB, WSU faculty members will have added opportunities to engage in academic, clinical, and research activities with our undergraduate students.

A major benefit of a move of our undergraduate program to the Health Sciences Building would be the greater likelihood of collaborative ventures with other health science disciplines at the Riverpoint campus such as occupational therapy and physical therapy. Since our graduate program is a joint venture with Washington State University, that institution would also enjoy the benefits of a wider range of collaborative opportunities. One of the five goals of our department's Long-Term Plan is to create collaborative ventures with other health science disciplines. Within the next five years, our program hopes to design shared undergraduate (e.g., anatomy and physiology) and graduate (e.g., augmentative and alternative communication, research) courses with the Departments of Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy, and/or Physical Therapy. In addition, we hope to establish a specialized transdisciplinary clinic to serve persons with severe communication and physical disabilities. This clinic will involve cross-training of students in communication disorders, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Finally, once an interdisciplinary course in research methodology has been established, we hope to create an annual Health Sciences Research Day that will involve these same disciplines. Some of these goals are dependent upon the consolidation of our undergraduate and graduate programs at HSB. Should consolidation come to fruition, Washington State University's Speech and Hearing Sciences program will benefit directly from these collaborative ventures. In turn, Washington State University and Eastern Washington University will gain even greater exposure and enhanced reputation locally as well as possibly nationally and internationally.

3. Impact

This proposal seeks only to consolidate our undergraduate program with our graduate program at the Health Sciences Building on the Riverpoint campus in downtown Spokane. As such, enrollment data were not included on the cover sheet of this NOI because our undergraduate program is already well established. Similarly, this NOI does not include any request for new funding. Being an established program, it is anticipated that a move will not result in any additional salary or operational costs. To the contrary, a move of our undergraduate program to the Riverpoint campus may result in some financial savings, in terms of the elimination of the need for duplicate facilities, equipment, and materials across the two campuses.

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Endorsement by Chief Academic Officer

Date

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